

# Michigan Supreme Court Annual Report 2013



**Working Smarter for a Better Michigan**

“My goal is to assure that Michigan courts are recognized as the best in the nation. Other states will benchmark their judiciaries against Michigan’s because we set the standard.”

-Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.

## FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



With Justices Bridget McCormack and David Viviano joining the bench, 2013 was a year of great change for the Michigan Supreme Court. However, changes went far beyond the new names on the Court's letterhead as we continued to spearhead a fundamental transformation of Michigan's judiciary to improve service to the public and cement our position as a trailblazer nationwide. Here is the evidence:

**Improving service to court customers is our top priority.** For the first time in 2013, court users were surveyed with questions about their level of satisfaction with trial courts. The result? Out of 21,000 respondents, 84 percent said they got their business done in a reasonable amount of time and 93 percent said they were treated with courtesy and respect by court staff. At the same time, 96 percent of cases in trial courts statewide were concluded within time limits set by the Supreme Court.

These performance measures, and others, are posted on our website and are designed to provide judges with data necessary to revise budgets, change operating procedures, or reassign personnel in order to improve service to the public.

**Michigan is leading the nation in rightsizing courts.** Eliminating 40 judicial seats will ultimately save taxpayers more than \$6 million annually. Just as important, more than three quarters of Michigan counties have consolidation plans or are developing them. No other state comes even close to Michigan's record of success in reorganizing courts to make them more efficient.

**Technology saves money and improves service.** For example, in 2013, our initiative to install video-conferencing technology in courtrooms in every county saved the Michigan Department of Corrections more than \$1.2 million *in transportation costs alone*. In addition, our new MiCOURT case management application will help courts statewide be more efficient and do more with less.

**My goal is to assure that Michigan courts are recognized as the best in the nation.** Other states will benchmark their judiciaries against Michigan's because we set the standard. Continuing to work towards that goal is the prime task of the Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office in 2014 and beyond. Michigan residents and taxpayers deserve nothing less.

Michigan courts: Working smarter for a better Michigan.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert P. Young, Jr." in a cursive style.

Robert P. Young, Jr.  
Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court



Lenawee County Chief Probate and Presiding Family Court Judge Gregg P. Iddings in the Michigan Supreme Court to finalize adoptions for a Lenawee County family on Adoption Day 2013. *Photo by MSC Public Information Office.*

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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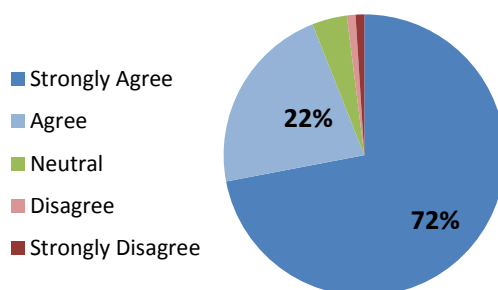
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Michigan Courts 2013: Performance, Technology, Efficiency, Innovation

**Performance.** Trial courts continue to measure performance, including timeliness and public satisfaction.

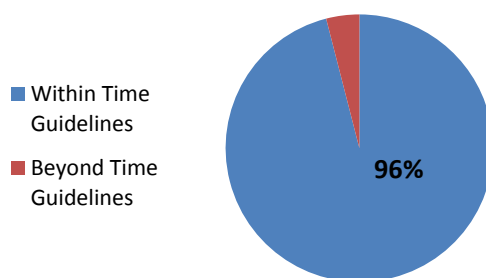
- **Public gives high marks to Michigan trial courts.** In 2013, trial courts conducted the first annual statewide public satisfaction survey. Over 21,000 people responded to questions about accessibility and fairness. 94 percent agreed or strongly agreed that “I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.” 81 percent agreed or strongly agreed that “The way the case was handled was fair.”

#### I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.



- **Cases are adjudicated in a timely manner.** In 2013, 96 percent of trial court cases were adjudicated within the time guidelines established by the Michigan Supreme Court. Trial courts continue to manage caseflow to ensure that justice is not delayed.

#### 96 Percent of Cases Adjudicated Within Time Guidelines

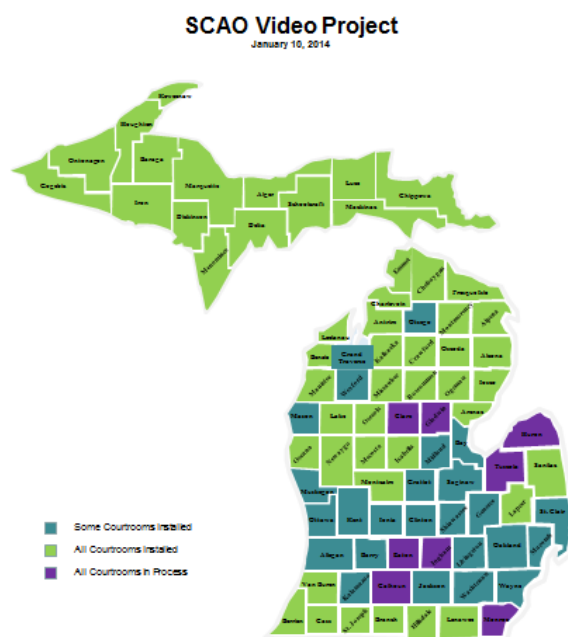


- **Problem-solving courts make a difference.** From drug courts to veterans’ treatment courts, 174 problem-solving courts are changing lives statewide. For example, after two years, sobriety court participants had recidivism rates for an alcohol or drug offense that were more than three times lower than their comparison counterparts.



**Technology.** New technology can save time and money while improving service to the public.

- **New “One Court of Justice” site praised.** The redesigned website was described as “clear, concise, intuitive” in a Microsoft case study. Outdated materials were removed, search functionality improved, and screens modified to be smart-phone friendly.
- **MiCOURT case management system launched.** Developed by the Judicial Information Systems, MiCOURT will provide the trial courts with state-of-the-art features that save time and money.
- **“Video transports” save the state \$1.2 million per year.** In 2013, Michigan’s courts increasingly used video equipment to hold hearings with incarcerated offenders, thereby reducing risks and expenses of transporting prisoners to court.



**Efficiency and Innovation.** Trial courts are doing more with less.

- **Business dockets established.** In 17 counties, the Court appointed one or more judges to handle business-to-business disputes with a goal of timely and predictable resolutions. These courts have already generated more than 60 published opinions.
- **Courts share resources.** Courts in 64 of Michigan’s 83 counties have concurrent jurisdiction plans or are developing them.
- **Multi-court chief judges provide leadership.** The Court has promoted greater efficiency and consolidation by appointing 46 chief judges to oversee two or more courts. Historically, there was a different chief judge for each of the 244 trial courts.

## Supreme Court



**Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court.** FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., Justice Stephen J. Markman. BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, Justice Mary Beth Kelly, Justice Brian K. Zahra, Justice David F. Viviano. *Photo by Doug Elbinger, Elbinger Studios.*

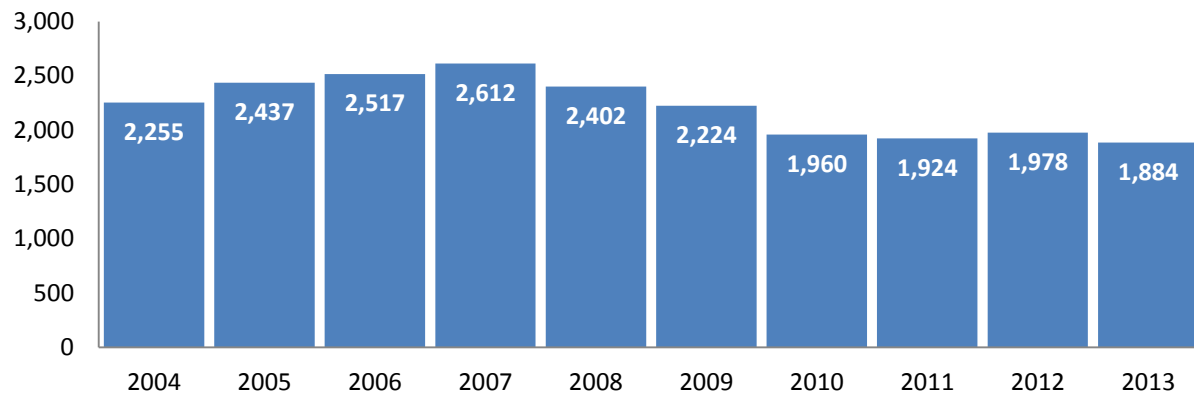
The Michigan Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort, with authority over all state courts. Each year, the Court receives and adjudicates about 2,000 cases, most of them applications for leave to appeal from Michigan Court of Appeals decisions. Over two-thirds of the filings the Supreme Court receives are in criminal cases.

In 2013, the [Guide for Counsel in Cases to Be Argued in the Michigan Supreme Court](#) was prepared with extensive input from several prominent appellate practitioners. Attorneys can use this resource to prepare briefs and argue cases before the Supreme Court. The Court's oral arguments and other hearings are also available online through [live streaming](#). The Court's [recent opinions](#) are also online.

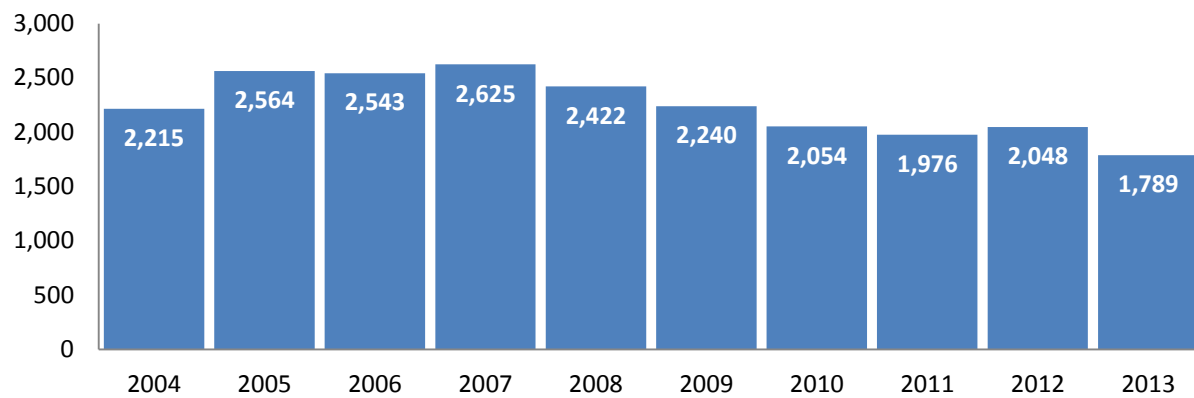
The Supreme Court also has general administrative oversight of the state's courts. For example, the Court establishes the [Michigan Court Rules](#), which govern practice and procedure for all state courts.



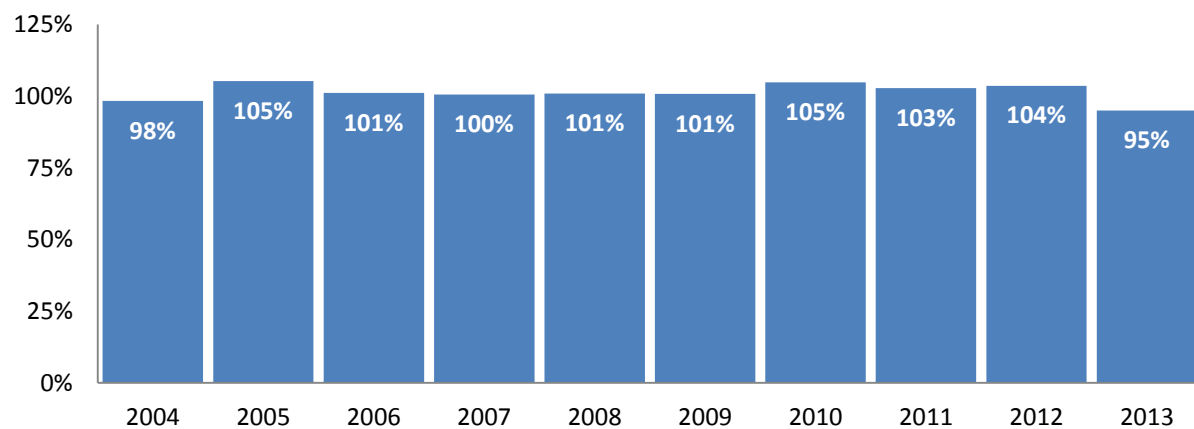
### Michigan Supreme Court Case Filings



### Michigan Supreme Court Case Dispositions



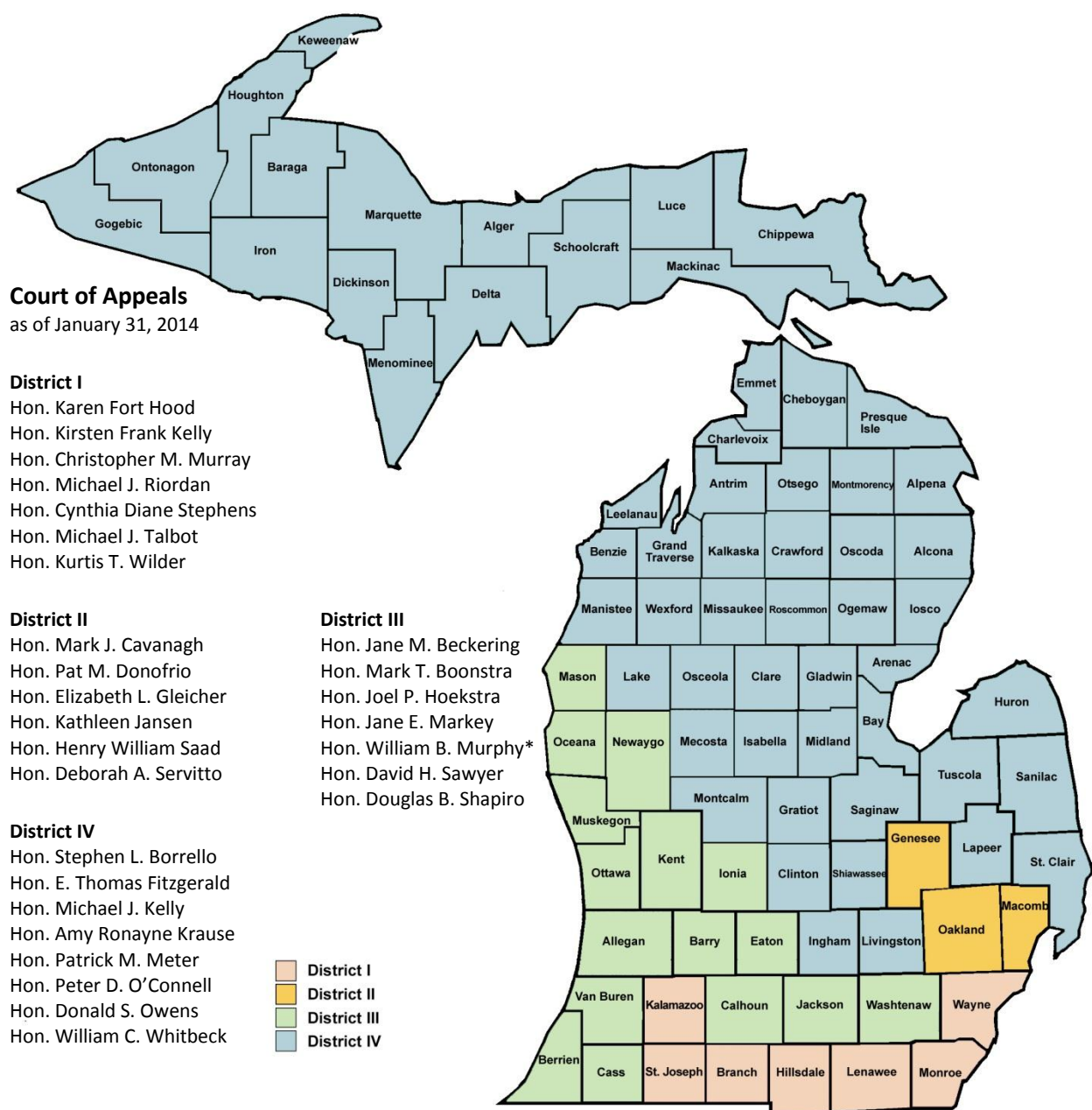
### Michigan Supreme Court Clearance Rates



# Court of Appeals

[The Court of Appeals](#), the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court, receives approximately 6,000 new case filings each year.

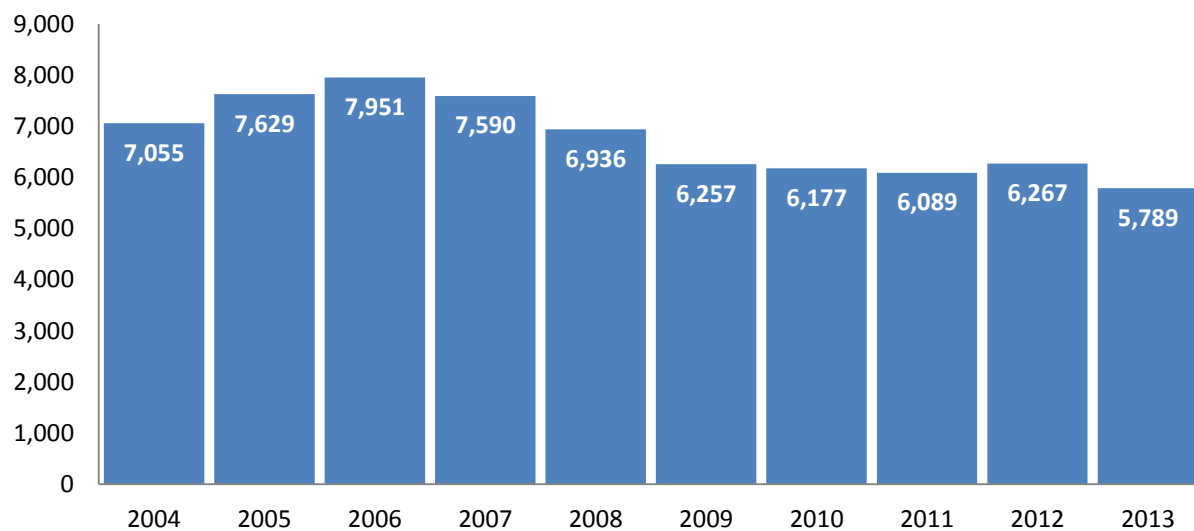
In 2013, Public Act 164 moved the [Court of Claims](#) from the 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court to the Court of Appeals. Court of Appeals Judges Michael J. Talbot, Pat M. Donofrio, Deborah A. Servitto, and Amy Ronayne Krause were assigned to sit as judges of the Court of Claims and Judge Micheal J. Talbot was designated as chief judge.



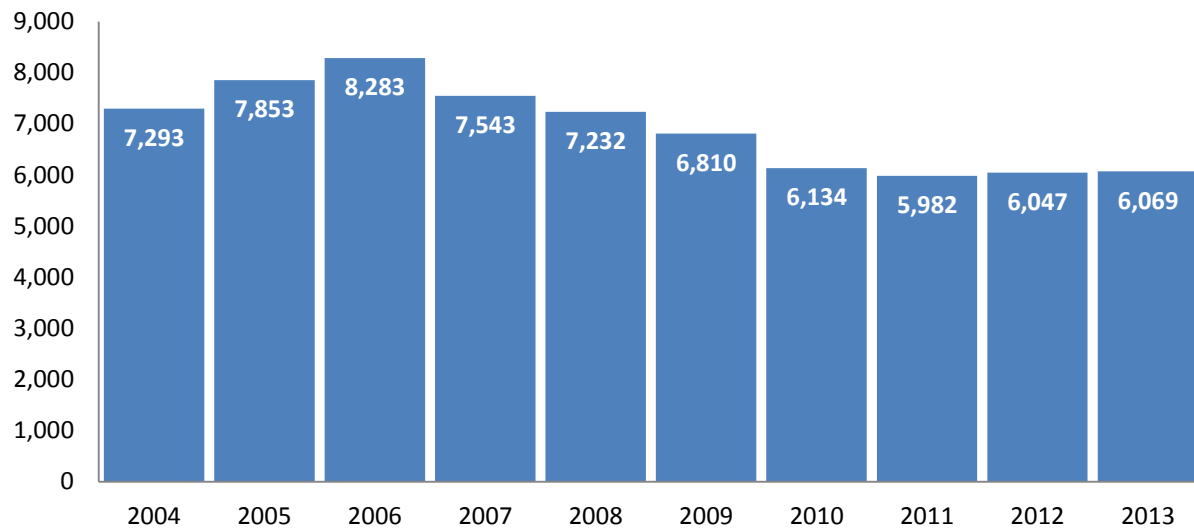


**Judges of the Michigan Court of Appeals:** FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Jane E. Markey, E. Thomas Fitzgerald, Chief Judge Pro Tem David H. Sawyer, Chief Judge William B. Murphy, Kathleen Jansen, Joel P. Hoekstra, Peter D. O'Connell. MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Pat M. Donofrio, Patrick M. Meter, Kirsten Frank Kelly, Michael J. Talbot, Stephen L. Borrello, Donald S. Owens, Kurtis T. Wilder, William C. Whitbeck, Christopher M. Murray. BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Cynthia Diane Stephens, Douglas B. Shapiro, Jane M. Beckering, Elizabeth L. Gleicher, Amy Ronayne Krause, Michael J. Kelly. NOT PICTURED: Mark J. Cavanagh, Henry William Saad, Karen Fort Hood, Deborah A. Servitto, Mark T. Boonstra, Michael J. Riordan. *Photo by David Trumpie, Trumpie Photography.*

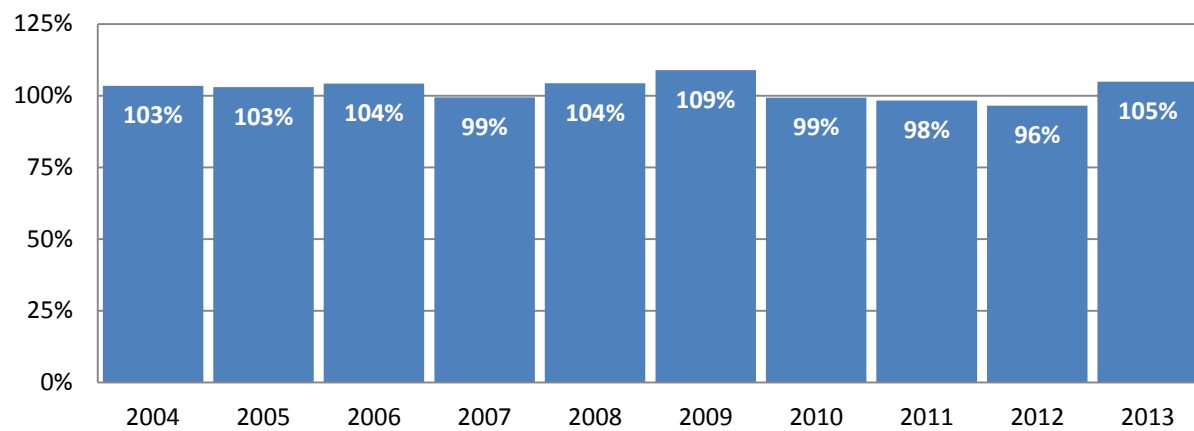
### Michigan Court of Appeals Case Filings



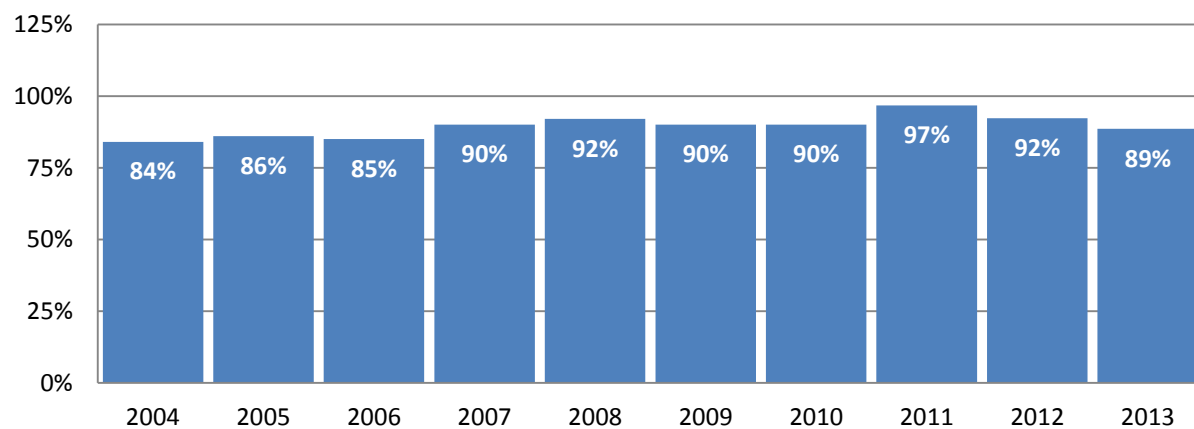
### Michigan Court of Appeals Case Dispositions



### Michigan Court of Appeals Clearance Rates



### Percent of Cases 18 Months Old or Less at Disposition



**Trial Courts  
Serve the  
Public**

**SCAO  
Serves the  
Trial Courts**

## State Court Administrative Office (SCAO)

The Supreme Court has administrative oversight of Michigan's courts and exercises that oversight through the [State Court Administrative Office](#). In particular, SCAO is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and publishing data regarding the performance of Michigan trial courts. These performance measures data are used to help trial courts identify and reward superior performance, address potential problem areas, and improve service to the public. As part of this initiative, SCAO has begun publishing an annual customer satisfaction survey with details regarding how court users feel about trial courts on issues ranging from timeliness to courteous service. SCAO provides administrative support to trial courts through five regional administrative offices (see map on page 10) and through several divisions in the Hall of Justice in Lansing:

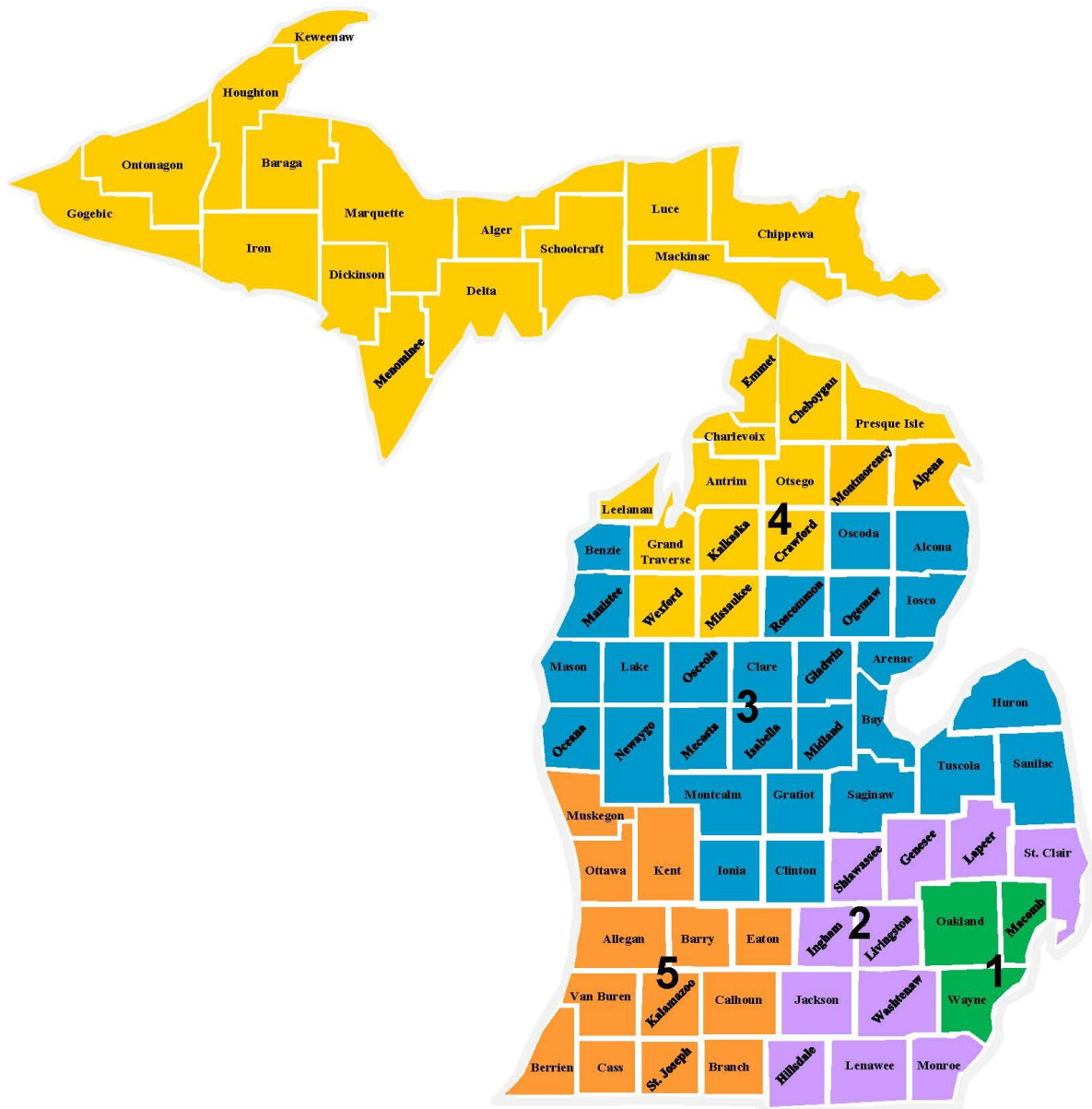
- [Trial Court Services](#) (TCS) is the primary source for management support for circuit, district, and probate courts. TCS establishes and implements performance standards for trial court administration while also helping to apply best practices and oversee new initiatives.
- [Judicial Information Systems](#) (JIS) provides case management applications used by 80 percent of Michigan trial courts. In addition to other technology-related services, JIS also facilitates the delivery of case disposition information to the Secretary of State and the Michigan State Police.
- The [Michigan Judicial Institute](#) (MJII) is SCAO's continuing education division and provides live and web-based educational seminars for judicial branch employees. MJII also produces legal reference publications, including benchbooks designed specifically for Michigan judges.
- [Child Welfare Services](#) (CWS) provides support, training, and management assistance to circuit court family divisions on issues such as adoption, Absent Without Legal Permission (AWOLP), foster care, child abuse/neglect, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and termination of parental rights.
- The [Friend of the Court Bureau](#) (FOCB) was established to provide circuit courts across the state with management assistance in operating local friend of the court offices, including development of local policies and procedures.
- The [Office of Dispute Resolution](#) works to increase the awareness of dispute resolution options, assists judicial stakeholders to integrate dispute resolution processes within the traditional litigation system, and identifies and develops specialized dispute resolution programs and services.

Trial courts also benefit from analysis and advice provided by SCAO's Human Resources, Finance, and [Statistical Research](#) divisions.

Visit the [State Court Administrative Office website](#) for a more detailed listing of services provided to Michigan's trial courts.



# Court Administrative Regions



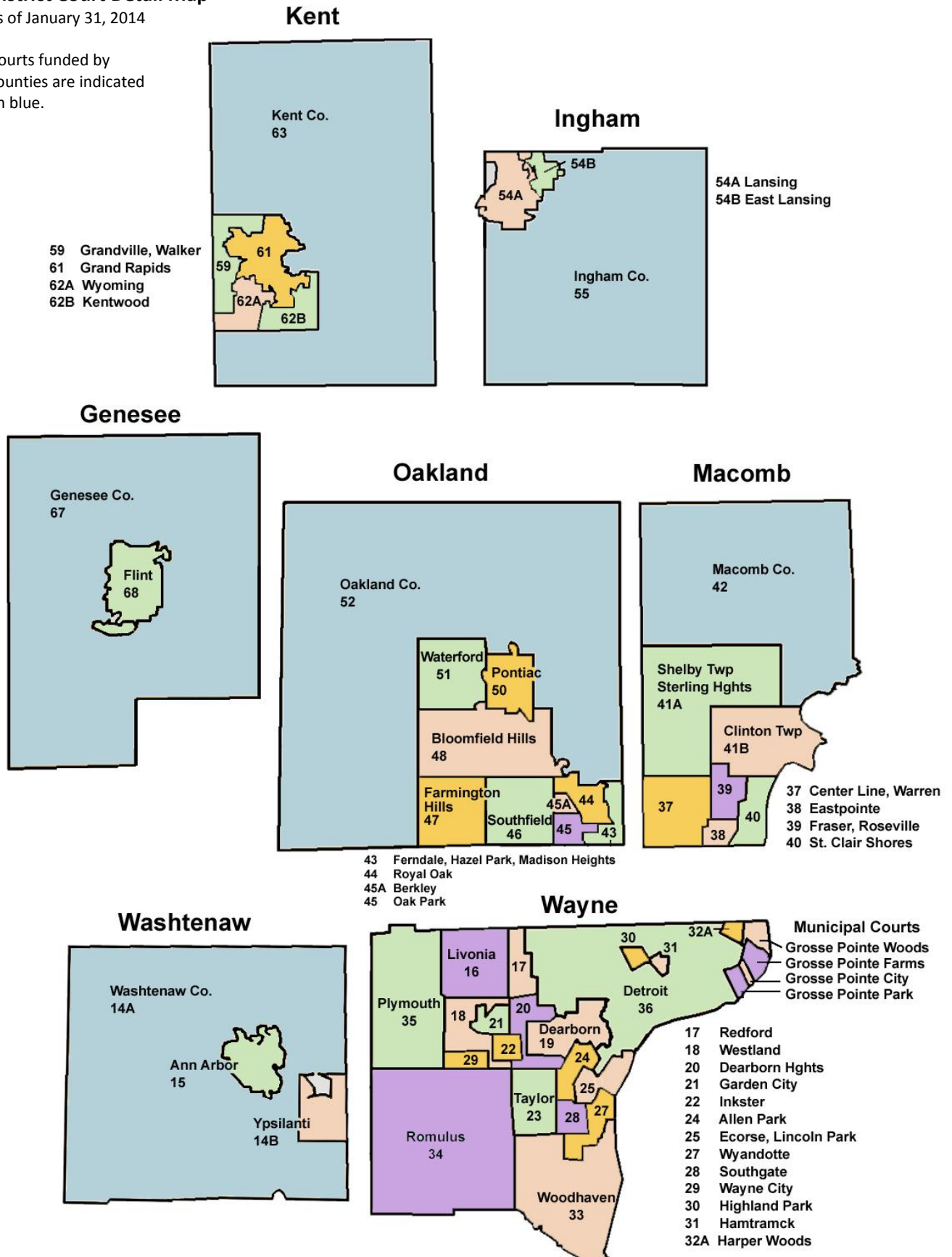
as of January 31, 2014



## District Court Detail Map

as of January 31, 2014

Courts funded by counties are indicated in blue.



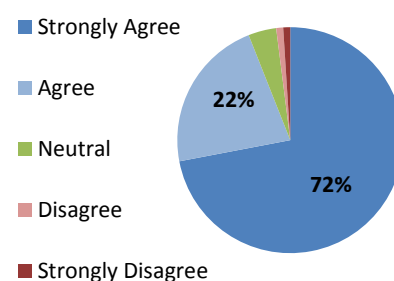
# Performance

## Public Gives High Marks

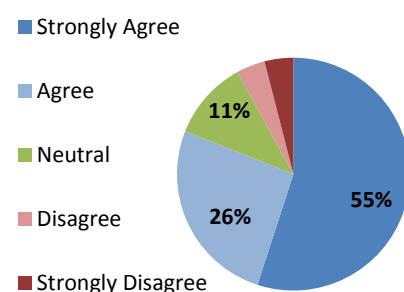
In 2013, trial courts conducted the first annual statewide public satisfaction survey. Over 21,000 people responded to questions about accessibility and fairness. 94 percent agreed or strongly agreed that “I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.” 81 percent agreed or strongly agreed that “The way the case was handled was fair.” Courts will solicit feedback from the public each year to identify successes and areas for improvement. [Survey results](#) are online and summarized below.

	Agree or Strongly Agree	Neutral	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
<b>Access</b>			
Finding the courthouse was easy.	94%	4%	2%
The forms I needed were clear and easy to understand.	87%	9%	3%
I felt safe in the courthouse.	93%	5%	3%
I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today.	85%	9%	6%
I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.	94%	4%	2%
I easily found the courtroom or office I needed.	93%	5%	2%
The court’s website was useful.	66%	26%	7%
The court’s hours of operation made it easy for me to do my business.	85%	10%	5%
<b>Fairness</b>			
The way the case was handled was fair.	81%	11%	8%
The judge/magistrate/referee listened to both sides of the story before making a decision.	83%	10%	6%
The judge/magistrate/referee had the information necessary to make informed decisions about the case.	85%	9%	6%
The judge/magistrate/referee treated everyone with courtesy and respect.	89%	7%	4%
The judge/magistrate/referee told the parties what would happen next in the case.	87%	9%	4%
The outcome in my case was favorable to me.	69%	20%	12%
As I leave the court, I understand what happened in my case.	85%	9%	6%

94 percent were treated with courtesy and respect by staff



81 percent thought the way the case was handled was fair



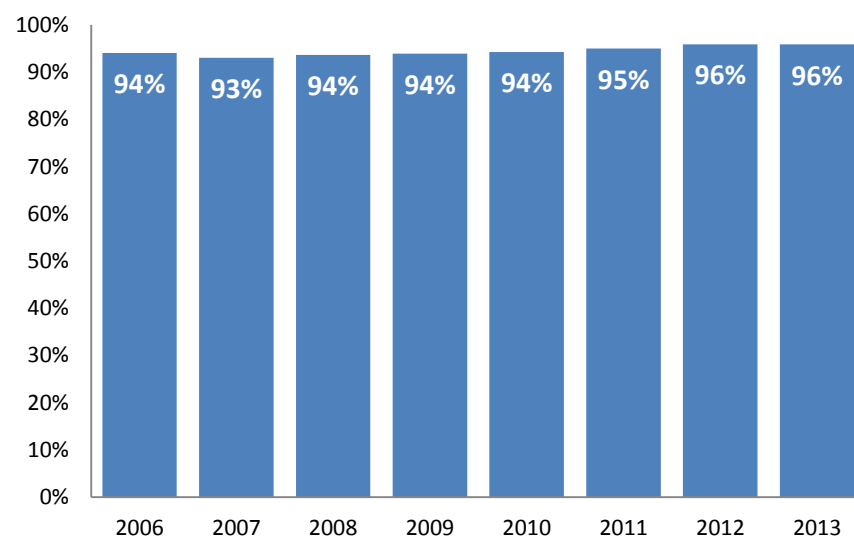
96 percent of cases adjudicated within time guidelines

## Cases Adjudicated Within Guidelines

In 2013, 96 percent of trial court cases were adjudicated within the time guidelines established by the Court. Time guidelines provide a goal for courts to move cases from filing to adjudication or other disposition. Trial courts continue to manage caseflow to ensure that justice is not delayed. The current guidelines, updated in 2013, are provided in Administrative Order 2013-12.

<b>2013 Court Averages</b>	<b>Percent Disposed Within Final Guideline</b>
Felony	97% within 301 days
Circuit Civil	93% within 728 days
Divorce - With Minor Children	92% within 364 days
Divorce - Without Minor Children	97% within 364 days
Child Protective - In Foster Care at Disposition	81% within 98 days
Child Protective - Not In Foster Care at Disposition	89% within 210 days
Delinquency - In Detention at Disposition	84% within 98 days
Delinquency - Not in Detention at Disposition	93% within 210 days
Contested Matters Within Probate Court	
Estate, Trust, Guardianship, & Conservatorship	92% within 364 days
Mental Illness & Judicial Admission	98% within 28 days
Misdemeanor	96% within 126 days
Civil Infraction	97% within 84 days
District General Civil	99% within 455 days
District Summary Civil Without Jury Demand	95% within 126 days

**Percent of State Trial Court Cases Disposed Within Time Guidelines**





## Problem-Solving Courts Reduce Crime

Drug and alcohol courts are part of the “problem-solving” court movement. These programs focus on addictions and destructive behaviors. By using intensive treatment and other services, backed by the threat of court sanctions, these programs address issues that will otherwise trap the offender in a vicious circle of crime. Michigan's problem-solving courts include drug, sobriety, family dependency, juvenile drug, mental health, and veterans’ courts.

In 2013, both mental health court programs and veterans’ treatment courts expanded. Mental health court programs work with local community mental health service providers to treat offenders whose mental illness is a cause of their criminal activity. Veterans’ treatment courts integrate the traditional partners of drug courts and mental health courts with the services available from Veterans’ Affairs, veteran mentors, and other organizations that serve veterans and their families.

By measuring recidivism, these programs can tell whether they are reducing crime and being cost-effective, compared to traditional sanctions. The data continues to indicate that participants in Michigan alcohol and drug courts are less likely to be convicted of a new drug or alcohol crime, or any crime at all, within two to four years after enrollment, compared to a group of similar defendants who were not assigned to the program.

### Sobriety Court Recidivism Rates

Assessment Period	Conviction Type	Nonparticipants	Participants
2 Years	Drug or Alcohol	10%	3%
2 Years	Any New Conviction	12%	4%
4 Years	Drug or Alcohol	15%	8%
4 Years	Any New Conviction	18%	10%

### District Drug Court Recidivism Rates

Assessment Period	Conviction Type	Nonparticipants	Participants
2 Years	Drug or Alcohol	10%	5%
2 Years	Any New Conviction	12%	6%
4 Years	Drug or Alcohol	16%	12%
4 Years	Any New Conviction	18%	13%

### Circuit Drug Court Recidivism Rates

Assessment Period	Conviction Type	Nonparticipants	Participants
2 Years	Drug or Alcohol	11%	6%
2 Years	Any New Conviction	17%	9%
4 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	18%	15%
4 Years	Any New Conviction	27%	22%

Mental health and veterans’ treatment programs expected to grow

Drug courts now provide additional services to veterans

Participants reoffend less often

More resources  
available to the  
public

## Technology

### E-Resources Available to the Public

SCAO is committed to helping trial courts share innovative ideas and use new technology where it would be beneficial. Some technology is widespread in the courts, but other technology is not. Most courts have a website with information about the court, its hours, location, and services. Some courts provide case information and accept payments through the web. Others post the court's calendar or docket on the web.

The specific e-resources available for each court are identified in the [trial court directory](#). For example, in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court, the public can access records, make a payment, or view the court docket on the web. The court also accepts filings by fax.

#### 33rd District Court - Wayne (D33)

19000 Van Horn

Woodhaven, MI 48183

(734) 671-0201

Honorable Jennifer Coleman Hesson, Chief Judge

Honorable James Kurt Kersten, District Judge

Honorable Michael K. McNally, District Judge

[Visit Website](#)



Online access to records



Accepts online payment



Provides some sort of online docket



Accepts filings via FAX.

## **“One Court of Justice” Website Praised**

According to a 2013 [Microsoft case study](#), “the Michigan Supreme Court modernized its Internet presence with a clear, concise, and intuitive site that’s accurate and current.” In 2012, the Court launched its redesigned website that eliminated outdated content and improved search functionality. Since then, traffic to the site has doubled and calls for help to find content are down.

The website has continued to improve. The site now adjusts to smaller screens, making it smart-phone friendly. Also, anyone can sign-up on the site to receive [free e-mail notifications](#) when appellate opinions, orders, and administrative orders become available.

Website “clear,  
concise, intuitive”

Smart-phone  
friendly

## **Case Management System Improved**

MiCOURT, the new windows-based system for courts to manage cases, will replace the current de-centralized mainframe system. In 2013, the State Court Administrative Office Judicial Information Systems division developed its implementation plan to roll-out the system across the state. The plan includes training, infrastructure updates, and data migration. The MiCOURT application will replace different legacy systems with one state-of-the-art system with dozens of new features that will save trial courts time and money.

MiCOURT case  
management  
application will save  
courts time and  
money.

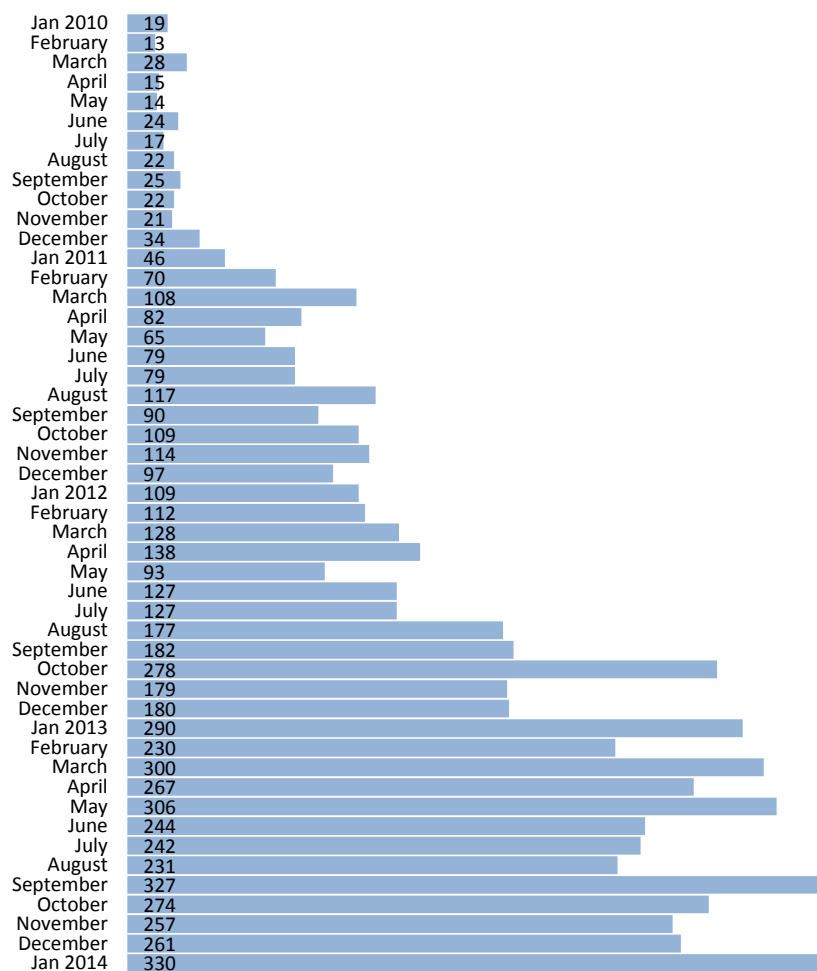
Videoconferencing  
with prisoners  
saves \$1.2 million  
per year

## Videoconferencing Enhances Security while Saving Time and Money

More courts are using videoconferencing to cut costs, save time, and reduce security risks. Judges, officers, experts, witnesses, and others can now attend court hearings by video. Incarcerated defendants can attend a hearing from jail or prison instead of being transported by two armed officers. As a result, transportation costs for the Department of Corrections have reduced by \$1.2 million per year. Courts and other agencies are also experiencing substantial savings.

In January 2014, 330 corrections inmates participated in hearings by video, representing a significant savings of time and money. This represents a dramatic increase from the 19 “video transports” in January 2010.

### Video “Transports” by Michigan Department of Corrections



## More Courts Accept Online Payment as Convenience to the Public

District and municipal courts handle over two million civil infractions each year. Many of these courts accept online payment as a convenience to the public. This often saves court staff time as well because many systems post the transactions directly to the case management system.

Seventy-nine courts currently accept payments through the web. To see if a court accepts online payments, see the [trial court directory](#).

Online payments  
accepted by 79  
courts

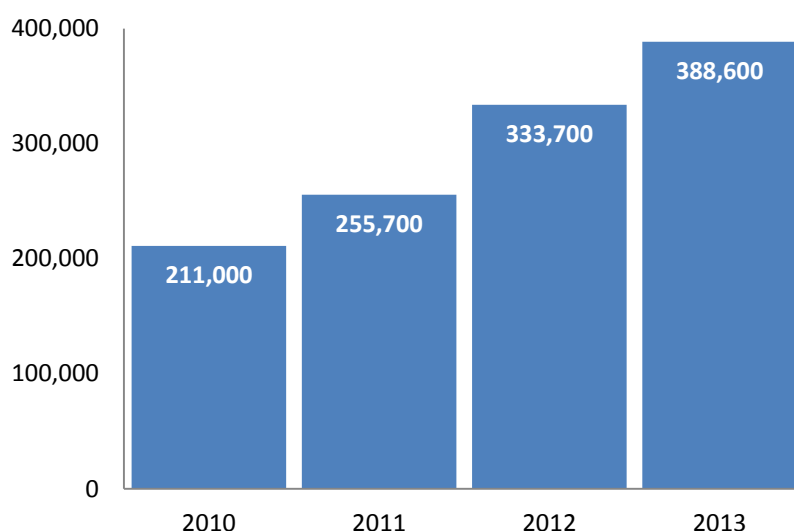
## More Information Shared Electronically

The Judicial Data Warehouse is a central electronic repository for court records containing 45 million case records. In 2013, 242 courts, or 99 percent of all Michigan trial courts, contributed records to the Judicial Data Warehouse on a weekly basis.

Courts, law enforcement agencies, and the Secretary of State can access records from other courts to obtain a “court history” for an individual. In the past four year alone, the number of “hits” to the warehouse has nearly doubled.

99 percent of courts  
contribute records  
to our data  
warehouse

### “Hits” to the Judicial Data Warehouse





## Innovative courts receive seed money

# Efficiency and Innovation

## Courts Innovate

In 2013, 15 courts received grants to test innovations. The Court Performance Innovation Fund (CPIF) Grant, created by a legislative appropriation of \$1,000,000, encourages Michigan's trial courts to create and test groundbreaking programs.

The innovative court programs funded for fiscal year 2014 are:

The **14th Circuit Court Family Division** (Muskegon County) is using Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, and cell phones to contact clients and send reminders for payments and hearings.

The **14A, 14B, and 15th District Courts** (Washtenaw County) are educating attorneys, police officers, and the public about human trafficking; conducting assessments of all individuals arrested for prostitution and other cases linked to human trafficking; offering alternative services to incarceration; collecting human trafficking data; and developing a model to be used by other courts.

The **22nd Circuit Court** (Washtenaw County) is developing a sustainable and collaborative model for a peacemaking court using tribal peacemaking principles.

The **36th District Court** (Detroit) is automating the income tax garnishment process.

The **3rd Circuit Court** (Wayne County), **6th Circuit Court** (Oakland County), **16th Circuit Court** (Macomb County), **63rd District Court** (Kent County), and **Wayne County Probate Court** are using a collaborative approach that is allowing attorneys and parties to check-in to the court electronically. This project may expand if it is found to be successful.

The **3rd Circuit Court Juvenile Division** (Wayne County), through the use of technology, is educating youth on court processes so they may aid in their own defense, promoting the benefits of continuing education, and providing information about the use of drugs and alcohol.

The **8th Circuit Court** (Ionia County) is starting a county-wide pretrial program to monitor and ensure defendants' compliance with bond conditions and to provide services earlier to defendants.

The **55th District Court** (Ingham County) and the **63rd District Court** (Kent County) are appointing attorneys at first court appearance hearings to ensure the protection of Fifth Amendment rights, save on court time, and reduce jail overcrowding.

The SCAO began accepting applications for fiscal year 2015 in May of 2014. All information regarding the [application process](#) can be found online.

## Business Court Dockets Established

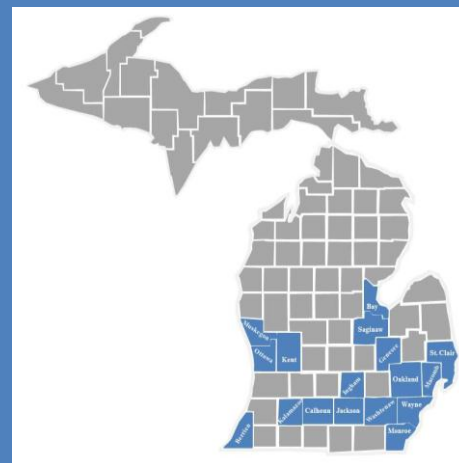
Public Act 333 of 2012 established business court dockets within circuit courts to provide more timely, effective, and predictable resolution to complex business cases. In the 17 counties with three or more circuit judges, the Court appointed specific judges to handle business-to-business disputes. Their judicial expertise combined with specialized case management techniques foster more timely and predictable resolutions to these disputes.

To be eligible for the business court docket, the dispute must be between two or more business entities and the attorney must identify the case as such at filing or response.

[Opinions in business court cases](#) are posted on the web.

County	Business Court Judges in 2013
Bay	Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt
Berrien	Hon. John E. Dewane
Calhoun	Hon. James C. Kingsley
Genesee	Hon. Judith Anne Fullerton
Ingham	Hon. Joyce A. Draganchuk
Jackson	Hon. Richard N. LaFlamme
Kalamazoo	Hon. J. Richardson Johnson
Kent	Hon. Christopher P. Yates
Macomb	Hon. John C. Foster
Monroe	Hon. Michael W. LaBeau
Muskegon	Hon. Neil G. Mullally
Oakland	Hon. James M. Alexander Hon. Wendy L. Potts
Ottawa	Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg
Saginaw	Hon. M. Randall Jurrens
St. Clair	Hon. Daniel J. Kelly
Washtenaw	Hon. Archie C. Brown
Wayne	Hon. Susan D. Borman Hon. Daniel P. Ryan Hon. Jeanne Stempien Hon. Brian R. Sullivan

Timely, effective,  
predictable  
resolution for  
business-to-  
business disputes



Language should  
not prevent  
meaningful access  
to courts

Concurrent  
jurisdiction plans  
allow courts to  
share resources

## **New Language Rules Enhance Access**

In 2013, the Court issued new rules to ensure that all persons, including those with limited English proficiency, have meaningful access to Michigan courts. For proceedings in the courtroom, courts must appoint a certified interpreter if one is reasonably available. For services outside the courtroom, each court must maintain a plan specifying how the court will provide access. To assist courts in meeting these requirements, certification of [foreign language interpreters](#) is more readily available.

## **Courts Coordinate and Consolidate**

In 2013, Michigan trial courts continued to share resources and promote efficiency through concurrent jurisdiction plans. Traditionally, each court within a judicial circuit – circuit, probate, and district – operated independently of each other. Each judge heard only the cases filed in his or her court. That began to change in 2003 with the passage of legislation that allows courts within a judicial circuit to share judges' time and other resources. As of today, 121 courts in 46 counties have a concurrent jurisdiction plan. Additional courts in 18 counties are developing concurrent jurisdiction plans.

Recently, Michigan created regional Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) courts, believed to be the first of their kind in the country. These are different from other DWI courts because they serve more than one court jurisdiction. For example, two or more district courts can participate in a single regional DWI program. Smaller courts with few participants may not have the resources or caseload to sustain a program alone. By working together courts can provide services that otherwise would be unavailable. As of today, four regional DWI court programs are operating and SCAO is recruiting more courts to participate.

### 121 Courts in 46 Counties Share Judicial Resources

Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties	1 Circuit, 4 Probate, and 1 District
Allegan County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, 1 District
Baraga County	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Barry County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Bay County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Berrien County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Branch County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Calhoun County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Charlevoix and Emmet Counties	2 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Clinton and Gratiot Counties	1 Circuit, 2 Probate, 2 District
Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties	1 Circuit, 3 Probate, and 3 District
Eaton County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Genesee County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 2 District
Hillsdale County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Ingham County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 3 District
Iron County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Isabella County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Kalamazoo County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Lake County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Lapeer County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Livingston County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Marquette County	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Missaukee and Wexford Counties	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Mecosta and Osceola Counties	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Monroe County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Muskegon	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Ontonagon County	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Ottawa County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Saginaw County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
St. Clair County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
St. Joseph County	1 Circuit and 1 District
Tuscola County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Van Buren County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Washtenaw County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 3 District
Wayne County	1 Circuit and 4 District

### Courts in 18 Counties Planning to Share Judicial Resources

Alger County
Alpena County
Cass County
Chippewa County
Delta County
Gogebic County
Jackson County
Luce County
Mackinac County
Macomb County
Midland County
Montmorency County
Newaygo County
Oakland County
Oceana County
Sanilac County
Schoolcraft County
Shiawassee County

Courts in 46  
counties share  
judicial resources

Courts in 18  
counties are  
developing  
concurrent  
jurisdiction plans

## Five counties unify administrative resources

Many circuit and probate courts also share administrative resources, such as clerks, law libraries, court security, and counsel appointment systems. In five judicial circuits, the circuit, probate, and district courts have unified to form a single trial court with one administrative staff.

### Unified Trial Courts

Barry County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Berrien County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Iron County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Isabella County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Lake County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District

### 2013 Judicial Resources Recommendations

In 2013, the State Court Administrative Office released its biennial [judicial resources recommendations](#). The recommendations included reducing by attrition eight judgeships in several courts and adding eight judgeships in other courts. SCAO also recommended several reconfigurations of courts, including the consolidation of the 67<sup>th</sup> District Court of Genesee County and the 68<sup>th</sup> District Court of Flint. Ultimately, SCAO's recommendations to "rightsize" the judiciary will eliminate 36 trial court seats and 4 seats on the Court of Appeals, saving taxpayers \$6.4 million annually.

### Chief Judges of Multiple Courts

Supporting the drive toward consolidation is the Court's appointment of chief judges to oversee more than one court.

Historically, the Court would appoint a different chief judge for each trial court. For example, in Genesee County there were four chief judges: one for circuit court, one for probate court, and one for each of the two district courts.

In 2009, the Supreme Court appointed nine chief judges to each preside over multiple courts. By January 2014, 46 judges were presiding over multiple courts, as shown on the next page.

## Multicourt Chief Judges

as of January 31, 2014

County	Courts	Chief Judge
Alcona/Arenac/Iosco/Oscoda	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Allen C. Yenior
Alger/Luce/Mackinac/Schoolcraft	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. William W. Carmody
Alpena/Montmorency	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Michael G. Mack
Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Charles R. Goodman
Barry	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. William M. Doherty
Bay	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt
Benzie/Manistee	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. James M. Batzer
Berrien	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Thomas E. Nelson
Branch	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. P. William O'Grady
Cass	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Susan L. Dobrich
Cheboygan/Presque Isle	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich
Chippewa	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. James P. Lambros
Clinton/Gratiot	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen
Crawford	Probate, District	Hon. Monte Burmeister
Delta	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Stephen T. Davis
Eaton	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Thomas K. Byerley
Genesee	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Richard B. Yuille
Gogebic/Ontonagon	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.
Hillsdale	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Michael R. Smith
Huron	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. M. Richard Knoblock
Ionia/Montcalm	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Raymond P. Voet
Iron	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler
Isabella	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain
Jackson	Circuit, Probate	Hon. Thomas D. Wilson
Kalamazoo	Circuit, Probate	Hon. Curtis Bell
Kalkaska	Probate, District	Hon. Lynne Marie Buday
Lake	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Mark S. Wickens
Lapeer	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Nick O. Holowka
Livingston	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. David Reader
Macomb	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. John C. Foster
Marquette	Circuit, Probate	Hon. Thomas L. Solka
Mason	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Peter J. Wadel
Mecosta/Osceola	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy
Midland	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Stephen P. Carras
Missaukee/Wexford	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. William M. Fagerman
Monroe	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Jack Vitale
Muskegon	Circuit, Probate	Hon. William C. Marietti
Newaygo/Oceana	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Anthony A. Monton
Ogemaw/Roscommon	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Richard E. Noble
Saginaw	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Fred L. Borchard
Sanilac	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Donald A. Teeple
St. Clair	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Daniel J. Kelly
St. Joseph	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Paul E. Stutesman
Tuscola	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Kim David Glaspie
Van Buren	Circuit, Probate, District	Hon. Frank D. Willis
Washtenaw	Circuit, Probate	Hon. David S. Swartz

46 chief judges to  
preside over 2 or  
more courts



# TRIAL COURT APPENDIX: Courts and Judges

as of January 31, 2014

\*Chief Judge

## Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties

23rd Circuit	Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron Hon. William F. Myles
Alcona County Probate	Hon. Laura A. Frawley
Arenac County Probate	Hon. Richard E. Vollbach, Jr
Iosco County Probate	Hon. Christopher P. Martin
Oscoda County Probate	Hon. Kathryn Joan Root
81st District	Hon. Allen C. Yenior*

## Alger, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft Counties

11th Circuit	Hon. William W. Carmody*
Alger/Schoolcraft Probate District 5	Hon. Charles C. Nebel
Luce/Mackinac Probate District 6	Hon. W. Clayton Graham
92nd District	Hon. Beth Gibson
93rd District	Hon. Mark E. Luoma

## Allegan County

48th Circuit	Hon. Margaret Bakker* Hon. Kevin W. Cronin
Allegan County Probate	Hon. Michael L. Buck*
57th District	Hon. William A. Baillargeon* Hon. Joseph S. Skocelas

## Alpena and Montmorency Counties

26th Circuit	Hon. Michael G. Mack*
Alpena County Probate	Hon. Thomas J. LaCross
Montmorency County Probate	Hon. Benjamin T. Bolser
88th District	Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

## Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau Counties

13th Circuit	Hon. Thomas G. Power Hon. Philip E. Rogers, Jr*
Antrim County Probate	Hon. Norman R. Hayes*
Grand Traverse County Probate	Hon. Melanie Stanton*
Leelanau County Probate	Hon. Larry J. Nelson*
86th District	Hon. Michael J. Haley Hon. Thomas J. Phillips Hon. Michael Stepka*

## Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties

12th Circuit	Hon. Charles R. Goodman*
Baraga County Probate	Hon. Timothy S. Brennan
Houghton County Probate	Hon. Fraser T. Strome
Keweenaw County Probate	Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen
97th District	Hon. Mark A. Wisti

## Barry County

5th Circuit	Hon. Amy McDowell
Barry County Probate	Hon. William M. Doherty*
56B District	Hon. Michael Lee Schipper

## Bay County

18th Circuit	Hon. Harry P. Gill Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt* Hon. Joseph K. Sheeran
Bay County Probate	Hon. Karen Tighe
74th District	Hon. Mark E. Janer Hon. Timothy J. Kelly Hon. Dawn A. Klida

## Benzie and Manistee Counties

19th Circuit	Hon. James M. Batzer*
Benzie County Probate	Hon. John Mead
Manistee County Probate	Hon. Thomas N. Brunner
85th District – Benzie County	Hon. John Mead
85th District – Manistee County	Hon. Thomas N. Brunner

## Berrien County

2nd Circuit	Hon. John E. Dewane Hon. John M. Donahue Hon. Charles T. LaSata Hon. Angela Pasula
Berrien County Probate	Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield Hon. Thomas E. Nelson*
5th District	Hon. Gary J. Bruce Hon. Scott Schofield Hon. Sterling R. Schrock Hon. Dennis M. Wiley Hon. Arthur J. Cotter

## Branch County

15th Circuit	Hon. Patrick W. O’Grady*
Branch County Probate	Hon. Kirk A. Kashian
3A District	Hon. Brent R. Weigle

## Calhoun County

37th Circuit	Hon. James C. Kingsley* Hon. Brian Kirkham Hon. Stephen B. Miller Hon. Conrad J. Sindt
Calhoun County Probate	Hon. Michael L. Jaconette*
10th District	Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr. Hon. John A. Hallacy* Hon. John R. Holmes Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.

## Cass County

43rd Circuit	Hon. Michael E. Dodge
Cass County Probate	Hon. Susan L. Dobrich*
4th District	Hon. Stacey A. Rentfrow

### Charlevoix and Emmet Counties

33rd Circuit	Hon. Richard M. Pajtas*
57th Circuit	Hon. Charles W. Johnson*
Charlevoix/Emmet Probate District 7	Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser*
90th District	Hon. James N. Erhart*

### Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties

53rd Circuit	Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich*
Cheboygan County Probate	Hon. Robert John Butts
Presque Isle County Probate	Hon. Donald J. McLennan
89th District	Hon. Maria I. Barton

### Chippewa County

50th Circuit	Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros*
Chippewa County Probate	Hon. Elizabeth Biolette Church
91st District	Hon. Elizabeth Biolette Church

### Clare and Gladwin Counties

55th Circuit	Hon. Thomas R. Evans* Hon. Roy G. Mienk
Clare/Gladwin Probate District 17	Hon. Marcy A. Klaus*
80th District	Hon. Joshua M. Farrell*

### Clinton and Gratiot Counties

29th Circuit	Hon. Michelle M. Rick Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen*
Clinton County Probate	Hon. Lisa Sullivan
Gratiot County Probate	Hon. Kristin M. Bakker
65A District	Hon. Richard D. Wells
65B District	Hon. Stewart D. McDonald

### Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties

46th Circuit	Hon. Janet M. Allen* Hon. George J. Mertz
Crawford County Probate	Hon. Monte Burmeister*
Kalkaska County Probate	Hon. Lynne Marie Buday*
Otsego County Probate	Hon. Michael K. Cooper*
87A District	Hon. Patricia A. Morse*
87B District	Hon. Lynne Marie Buday*
87C District	Hon. Monte Burmeister*

### Delta County

47th Circuit	Hon. Stephen T. Davis*
Delta County Probate	Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.
94th District	Hon. Glenn A. Pearson

### Dickinson, Iron, and Menominee Counties

41st Circuit	Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind* Hon. Richard J. Celello
Iron County Probate	Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler*
Dickinson County Probate	Hon. Thomas D. Slagle*
Menominee County Probate	Hon. William A. Hupy*
95A District	Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow*
95B District	Hon. Christopher S. Ninomiya*

### Eaton County

56th Circuit	Hon. Janice K. Cunningham Hon. Jeffrey L. Sauter
Eaton County Probate	Hon. Thomas K. Byerley*
56A District	Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman Hon. Julie H. Reincke

### Genesee County

7th Circuit	Hon. Duncan M. Beagle Hon. Joseph J. Farah Hon. Judith A. Fullerton Hon. John A. Gadola Hon. Archie L. Hayman Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut Hon. David J. Newblatt Hon. Michael J. Theile Hon. Richard B. Yuille*
Genesee County Probate	Hon. Jennie E. Barkey Hon. F. Kay Behm
67th District	Hon. John L. Conover Hon. David J. Goggins Hon. Mark W. Latchana Hon. Mark C. McCabe Hon. Christopher Odette Hon. Larry Stecco
68th District	Hon. Tracy L. Collier-Nix Hon. William H. Crawford, II Hon. Mary Catherine Dowd Hon. Herman Marable, Jr. Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III

### Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties

32nd Circuit	Hon. Roy D. Gotham
Gogebic County Probate	Hon. Joel L. Massie
Ontonagon County Probate	Hon. Janis M. Burgess
98th District	Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.*

### Hillsdale County

1st Circuit	Hon. Michael R. Smith*
Hillsdale County Probate	Hon. Michelle Snell Bianchi
2B District	Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

### Huron County

52nd Circuit	Hon. M. Richard Knoblock*
Huron County Probate	Hon. David L. Clabuesch Hon. David B. Herrington
73B District	Hon. David B. Herrington

### Ingham County

30th Circuit	Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina Hon. Laura Baird Hon. Clinton Canady, III Hon. William E. Collette Hon. Joyce Draganchuk Hon. James S. Jamo Hon. Janelle A. Lawless*
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## Ingham County, continued

Ingham County Probate	Hon. R. George Economy Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia*
54A District	Hon. Louise Alderson* Hon. Patrick F. Cherry Hon. Hugh B. Clarke, Jr. Hon. Frank J. DeLuca Hon. Charles F. Filice
54B District	Hon. Richard D. Ball Hon. Andrea Andrews Larkin*
55th District	Hon. Donald L. Allen Hon. Thomas P. Boyd*

## Ionia and Montcalm Counties

8th Circuit	Hon. David A. Hoort Hon. Suzanne Kreeger
Ionia County Probate	Hon. Robert S. Sykes, Jr.
Montcalm County Probate	Hon. Charles W. Simon, III
64A District	Hon. Raymond P. Voet*
64B District	Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

## Isabella County

21st Circuit	Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain* Hon. Mark H. Duthie
Isabella County Probate	Hon. William T. Ervin
76th District	Hon. Eric Janes

## Jackson County

4th Circuit	Hon. Susan E. Beebe Hon. Richard N. LaFlamme Hon. John G. McBain, Jr. Hon. Thomas D. Wilson*
Jackson County Probate	Hon. Diane M. Rappleye
12th District	Hon. Joseph S. Filip Hon. Daniel A. Goostrey Hon. Michael J. Klaeren* Hon. R. Darryl Mazur

## Kalamazoo County

9th Circuit	Hon. Gary C. Giguere, Jr. Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz Hon. J. Richardson Johnson Hon. Pamela L. Lightvoet Hon. Alexander C. Lipsey
Kalamazoo County Probate	Hon. Curtis J. Bell* Hon. Patricia N. Conlon Hon. G. Scott Pierangeli
8th District	Hon. Anne E. Blatchford Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine* Hon. Robert C. Kropf Hon. Julie K. Phillips Hon. Richard A. Santoni Hon. Vincent C. Westra

## Kent County

17th Circuit	Hon. George S. Buth Hon. Paul J. Denenfeld Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III* Hon. Dennis B. Leiber Hon. James R. Redford Hon. Paul J. Sullivan Hon. Mark A. Trusock Hon. Christopher P. Yates Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis
Kent County Probate	Hon. Patricia D. Gardner Hon. G. Patrick Hillary Hon. David M. Murkowski* Hon. George Jay Quist
59th District	Hon. Peter P. Versluis*
61st District	Hon. David J. Buter Hon. J. Michael Christensen Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVille* Hon. Ben H. Logan, II Hon. Donald H. Passenger Hon. Kimberly A. Schaefer
62A District	Hon. Pablo Cortes* Hon. Steven M. Timmers
62B District	Hon. William G. Kelly*
63rd District	Hon. Steven R. Servaas Hon. Sara J. Smolenski*

## Lake and Mason Counties

51st Circuit	Hon. Richard I. Cooper
Lake County Probate	Hon. Mark S. Wickens*
Mason County Probate	Hon. Jeffrey C. Nellis
79th District	Hon. Peter J. Wadel*

## Lapeer County

40th Circuit	Hon. Byron J. Kenschuh Hon. Nick O. Holowka*
Lapeer County Probate	Hon. Justus C. Scott
71A District	Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard

## Lenawee County

39th Circuit	Hon. Margaret Murray-Scholz Noe Hon. Timothy P. Pickard*
Lenawee County Probate	Hon. Gregg P. Iddings*
2A District	Hon. Laura J. Schaedler Hon. James E. Sheridan*

## Livingston County

44th Circuit	Hon. Michael P. Hatty Hon. David Reader*
Livingston County Probate	Hon. Miriam Cavanaugh
53rd District	Hon. Theresa M. Brennan Hon. L. Suzanne Geddis Hon. Carol Sue Reader

## Macomb County

16th Circuit	Hon. James M. Biernat, Jr. Hon. Richard L. Caretti Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski Hon. Diane M. Druzinski Hon. Jennifer Faunce Hon. John C. Foster* Hon. Peter J. Maceroni Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr. Hon. Mark S. Switalski Hon. Matthew S. Switalski Hon. Kathryn A. Viviano Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
Macomb County Probate	Hon. Kathryn A. George Hon. Carl J. Marlinga
37th District	Hon. Dean Ausilio Hon. John M. Chmura* Hon. Michael Chupa Hon. Matthew P. Sabaugh
38th District	Hon. Carl F. Gerds, III*
39th District	Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker Hon. Marco A. Santia Hon. Catherine B. Steenland*
40th District	Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli* Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster
41A District	Hon. Michael S. Maceroni* Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski Hon. Kimberley Anne Wiegand
41B District	Hon. Linda Davis Hon. Carrie Lynn Fuca Hon. Sebastian Lucido*
42nd District	Hon. William H. Hackel, III Hon. Denis R. LeDuc

## Marquette County

25th Circuit	Hon. Jennifer Mazzuchi Hon. Thomas L. Solka*
Marquette County Probate	Hon. Cheryl L. Hill
96th District	Hon. Dennis H. Girard Hon. Roger W. Kangas*

## Mecosta and Osceola Counties

49th Circuit	Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy* Hon. Ronald C. Nichols
Mecosta/Osceola Probate District 18	Hon. Marco S. Menezes
77th District	Hon. Susan H. Grant

## Midland County

42nd Circuit	Hon. Michael J. Beale Hon. Stephen Carras*
Midland County Probate	Hon. Doreen S. Allen
75th District	Hon. Michael Carpenter

## Missaukee and Wexford Counties

28th Circuit	Hon. William M. Fagerman*
Missaukee County Probate	Hon. Charles R. Parsons
Wexford County Probate	Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma
84th District	Hon. Audrey Van Alst

## Monroe County

38th Circuit	Hon. Michael W. LaBeau Hon. Michael A. Weipert Hon. Daniel White
Monroe County Probate	Hon. Frank L. Arnold Vacant
1st District	Hon. Mark S. Braunlich Hon. Terrence P. Bronson Hon. Jack Vitale*

## Muskegon County

14th Circuit	Hon. Timothy G. Hicks Hon. Kathy L. Hoogstra Hon. William C. Marietti* Hon. Annette R. Smedley
Muskegon County Probate	Hon. Neil G. Mullally Hon. Gregory C. Pittman
60th District	Hon. Harold F. Closz, III Hon. Maria Ladas Hoopes Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan Hon. Andrew Wierengo

## Newaygo and Oceana Counties

27th Circuit	Hon. Anthony A. Monton* Hon. Terrence R. Thomas
Newaygo County Probate	Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff
Oceana County Probate	Hon. Bradley G. Lambrix
78th District	Hon. H. Kevin Drake

## Oakland County

6th Circuit	Hon. James M. Alexander Hon. Martha Anderson Hon. Leo Bowman Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan Hon. Rae Lee Chabot Hon. Lisa Ortlieb Gorcyca Hon. Nanci J. Grant* Hon. Shalina D. Kumar Hon. Denise Langford-Morris Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews Hon. Karen D. McDonald Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen Hon. Rudy J. Nichols Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien Hon. Daniel Patrick O'Brien Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts Hon. Michael D. Warren, Jr. Hon. Joan E. Young
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## Oakland County, continued

Oakland County Probate	Hon. Linda S. Hallmark Hon. Daniel A. O'Brien Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti* Hon. Kathleen A. Ryan
43rd District	Hon. Charles G. Goedert Hon. Keith P. Hunt Hon. Joseph Longo*
44th District	Hon. Terrence H. Brennan* Hon. Derek W. Meinecke
45A District	Hon. James L. Wittenberg*
45B District	Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel* Hon. David M. Gubow
46th District	Hon. Shelia R. Johnson Hon. Debra Nance Hon. William J. Richards*
47th District	Hon. James Brady Hon. Marla E. Parker*
48th District	Hon. Marc Barron Hon. Diane D'Agostini Hon. Kimberly Small*
50th District	Hon. Ronda Fowlkes Gross Hon. Michael C. Martinez Hon. Preston G. Thomas Hon. Cynthia Thomas Walker*
51st District	Hon. Jodi R. Debbrecht Hon. Richard D. Kuhn, Jr. *
52nd District	Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian Hon. William E. Bolle Hon. Robert Bondy Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak Hon. Joseph G. Fabrizio Hon. Kirsten Nielsen Hartig Hon. Kelley Renae Kostin Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie Hon. Julie A. Nicholson* Hon. Dennis N. Powers

## Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties

34th Circuit	Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner
Ogemaw County Probate	Hon. Shana A. Lambourn
Roscommon County Probate	Hon. Douglas C. Dosson
82nd District	Hon. Richard E. Noble* Hon. Daniel L. Sutton

## Ottawa County

20th Circuit	Hon. Kent D. Engle Hon. Jon H. Hulsing Hon. Edward R. Post* Hon. Jon Van Allsburg
Ottawa County Probate	Hon. Mark A. Feyen*
58th District	Hon. Craig E. Bunce Hon. Susan A. Jonas Hon. Bradley S. Knoll* Hon. Kenneth D. Post

## Saginaw County

10th Circuit	Hon. Janet M. Boes Hon. Fred L. Borchard* Hon. James T. Borchard Hon. Darnell Jackson Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek
Saginaw County Probate	Hon. Faye M. Harrison Hon. Patrick J. McGraw
70th District	Hon. Terry L. Clark Hon. Alfred T. Frank Hon. M. Randall Jurens Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr. Vacant

## Sanilac County

24th Circuit	Hon. Donald A. Teeple*
Sanilac County Probate	Hon. Gregory S. Ross
73A District	Hon. Gregory S. Ross

## Shiawassee County

35th Circuit	Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco*
Shiawassee County Probate	Hon. Thomas J. Dignan*
66th District	Hon. Ward L. Clarkson* Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

## St. Clair County

31st Circuit	Hon. Daniel J. Kelly* Hon. Cynthia A. Lane Hon. Michael L. West
St. Clair County Probate	Hon. Elwood L. Brown Hon. John D. Tomlinson
72nd District	Hon. Michael L. Hulewicz Hon. John D. Monaghan Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzter

## St. Joseph County

45th Circuit	Hon. Paul E. Stutesman*
St. Joseph County Probate	Hon. David C. Tomlinson
3B District	Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton Hon. Robert Pattison

## Tuscola County

54th Circuit	Hon. Amy G. Gierhart
Tuscola County Probate	Hon. Nancy Thane
71B District	Hon. Kim David Glaspie*

## Van Buren County

36th Circuit	Hon. Kathleen Brickley Hon. Jeffrey J. Duffon
Van Buren County Probate	Hon. Frank D. Willis*
7th District	Hon. Arthur H. Clarke, III Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

## Washtenaw County

22nd Circuit	Hon. Archie Cameron Brown Hon. Timothy P. Connors Hon. Carol A. Kuhnke Hon. Donald E. Shelton Hon. David S. Swartz*
Washtenaw County Probate	Hon. Darlene A. O'Brien Hon. Nancy Cornelia Wheeler
14A District	Hon. Richard E. Conlin* Hon. J. Cedric Simpson Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey
14B District	Hon. Charles Pope*
15th District	Hon. Joseph F. Burke Hon. Christopher S. Easthope Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines*

## Wayne County

3rd Circuit	Hon. David J. Allen Hon. Annette J. Berry Hon. Gregory D. Bill Hon. Susan D. Borman Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin Hon. Karen Y. Braxton Hon. Margie R. Braxton Hon. Megan Maher Brennan Hon. James A. Callahan Hon. Michael J. Callahan Hon. Jerome C. Cavanagh Hon. Eric William Cholack Hon. James R. Chylinski Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.* Hon. Kevin J. Cox Hon. Daphne Means Curtis Hon. Christopher D. Dingell Hon. Charlene M. Elder Hon. Vonda R. Evans Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr. Hon. Patricia Susan Fresard Hon. Sheila Ann Gibson Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr. Hon. David Alan Groner Hon. Richard B. Halloran, Jr. Hon. Amy Patricia Hathaway Hon. Cynthia Gray Hathaway Hon. Dana Margaret Hathaway Hon. Daniel Arthur Hathaway Hon. Michael M. Hathaway Hon. Charles S. Hegarty Hon. Susan L. Hubbard Hon. Muriel D. Hughes Hon. Vera Massey Jones Hon. Connie Marie Kelley Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny Hon. Qiana D. Lillard Hon. Arthur J. Lombard Hon. Kathleen I. Macdonald Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy Hon. Wade H. McCree
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## Wayne County, continued

	Hon. Bruce U. Morrow Hon. John A. Murphy Hon. Maria L. Oxholm Hon. Linda V. Parker Hon. Lynne A. Pierce Hon. Lita Masini Popke Hon. Daniel P. Ryan Hon. Richard M. Skutt Hon. Mark T. Slavens Hon. Leslie Kim Smith Hon. Virgil C. Smith Hon. Martha M. Snow Hon. Craig S. Strong Hon. Brian R. Sullivan Hon. Lawrence S. Talon Hon. Deborah A. Thomas Hon. Margaret M. Van Houten Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski Vacant
Wayne County Probate	Hon. June E. Blackwell-Hatcher Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr. Hon. Judy A. Hartsfield Hon. Terrance A. Keith Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr. * Hon. Martin T. Maher Hon. Lisa Marie Neilson Hon. Frank S. Szymanski
16th District	Hon. Sean P. Kavanagh* Hon. Kathleen J. McCann
17th District	Hon. Karen Khalil* Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth
18th District	Hon. Sandra A. Cicirelli Hon. Mark A. McConnell*
19th District	Hon. William C. Hultgren Hon. Sam A. Salamey* Hon. Mark W. Somers
20th District	Hon. Mark J. Plawecki Hon. David Turfe*
21st District	Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr. *
22nd District	Hon. Sabrina L. Johnson*
23rd District	Hon. Geno Salomone* Hon. William J. Sutherland
24th District	Hon. John T. Courtright* Hon. Richard A. Page
25th District	Hon. Michael F. Ciungan* Hon. David J. Zelenak
27th District	Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach*
28th District	Hon. James A. Kandrevas*
29th District	Hon. Laura Redmond Mack*
30th District	Hon. Brigitte R. Officer*
31st District	Hon. Paul J. Paruk*
32A District	Hon. Roger J. La Rose*
33rd District	Hon. Jennifer Coleman Hesson* Hon. James Kurt Kersten Hon. Michael K. McNally



**Wayne County, continued**

34th District	Hon. Tina Brooks Green*
	Hon. Brian A. Oakley
	Hon. David M. Parrott
35th District	Hon. Michael J. Gerou
	Hon. Ronald W. Lowe
	Hon. James A. Plakas*
36th District	Hon. Lydia Nance Adams
	Hon. Roberta C. Archer
	Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore
	Hon. Nancy McCaughan Blount*
	Hon. Izetta F. Bright
	Hon. Demetria Brue
	Hon. Esther Lynise Bryant-Weekes
	Hon. Ruth C. Carter
	Hon. Donald Coleman
	Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr.
	Hon. Wanda Evans
	Hon. Deborah Geraldine Ford
	Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett
	Hon. Ronald Giles
	Hon. Katherine Hansen

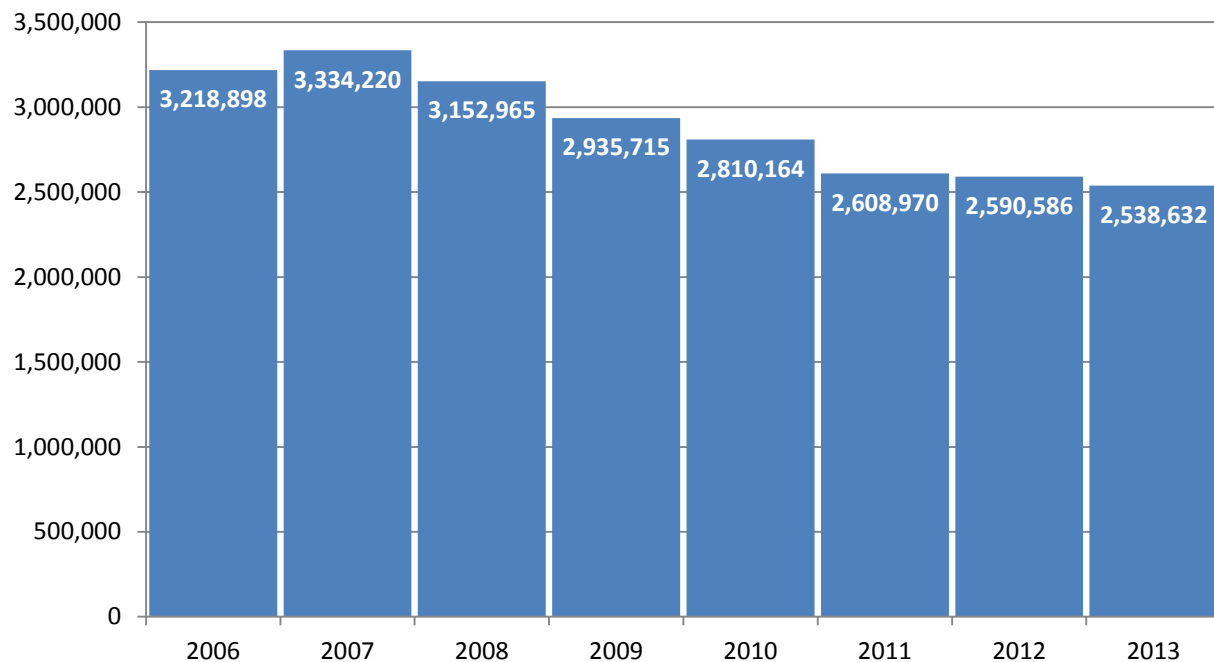
**Wayne County, continued**

	Hon. Shannon A. Holmes
	Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson
	Hon. Alicia A. Jones-Coleman
	Hon. Kenneth J. King
	Hon. Deborah L. Langston
	Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd
	Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark
	Hon. William McConico
	Hon. Donna R. Milhouse
	Hon. B. Pennie Millender
	Hon. Cylenthia LaToye Miller
	Hon. Kevin F. Robbins
	Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.
	Hon. Brenda Karen Sanders
	Hon. Michael E. Wagner
	Vacant
Grosse Pte. Municipal	Hon. Russell F. Ethridge*
Grosse Pte. Farms Municipal	Hon. Matthew R. Rumora*
Grosse Pte. Park Municipal	Hon. Carl F. Jarboe*
Grosse Pte. Woods Municipal	Hon. Theodore A. Metry*

For a current list of courts and judges, go to the online [trial court directory](#).

## TRIAL COURT APPENDIX: Cases Filings

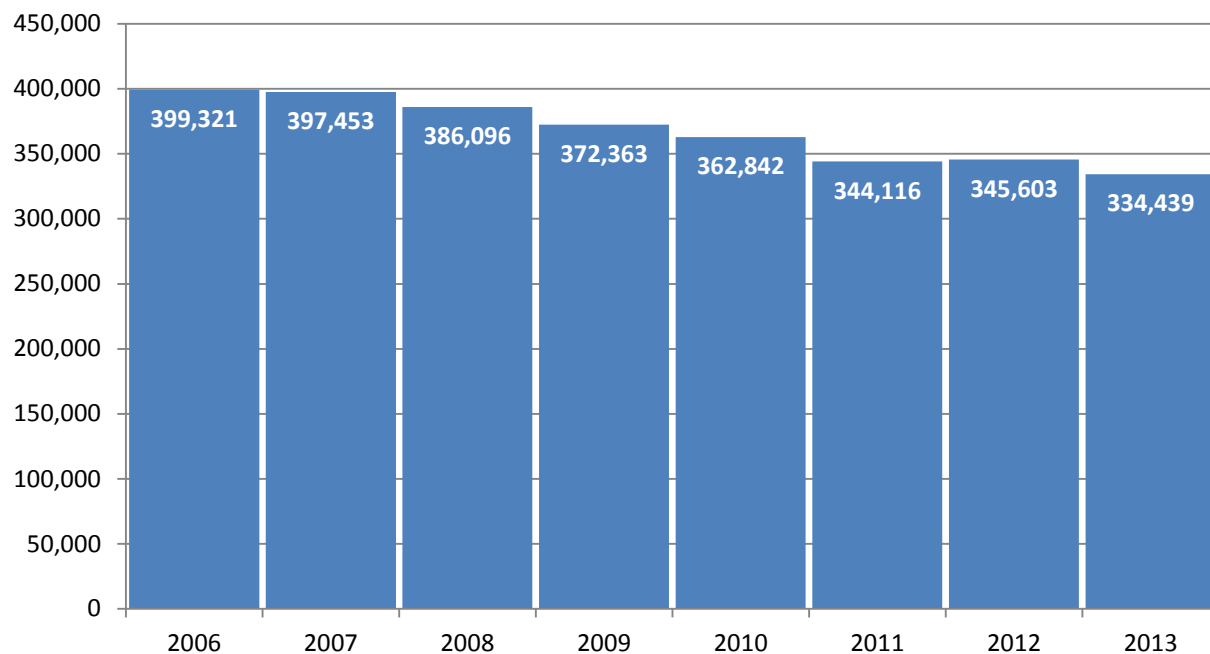
### District and Municipal Court Case Filings



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Felony & Extradition	81,280	82,605	80,728	74,440	70,823	68,891	69,405	68,961
Misdemeanor	271,523	282,341	262,711	248,159	239,230	221,150	220,392	200,403
Civil Infraction	62,501	69,292	66,818	67,395	64,691	62,271	63,724	60,567
<b>Nontraffic Subtotal</b>	<b>415,304</b>	<b>434,238</b>	<b>410,257</b>	<b>389,994</b>	<b>374,744</b>	<b>352,312</b>	<b>352,521</b>	<b>329,931</b>
Traffic Felony	1,917	1,823	1,862	1,881	1,743	1,780	1,731	1,676
Traffic Misdemeanor	307,968	301,504	281,657	269,075	273,458	266,929	268,085	265,463
Traffic Civil Infraction	1,809,580	1,841,950	1,715,837	1,604,293	1,523,347	1,379,725	1,350,225	1,371,837
OWI Misd. & Felony	54,399	51,144	48,632	46,761	41,721	36,671	36,704	35,763
<b>Traffic Subtotal</b>	<b>2,173,864</b>	<b>2,196,421</b>	<b>2,047,988</b>	<b>1,922,010</b>	<b>1,840,269</b>	<b>1,685,105</b>	<b>1,656,745</b>	<b>1,674,739</b>
General & Misc Civil	317,626	379,910	376,445	333,164	318,519	284,620	299,377	255,175
Small Claims	89,167	84,803	78,267	71,828	62,730	58,147	56,081	55,719
Summary Proceedings	222,937	238,848	240,008	218,719	213,902	228,786	225,862	223,068
<b>Civil Subtotal</b>	<b>629,730</b>	<b>703,561</b>	<b>694,720</b>	<b>623,711</b>	<b>595,151</b>	<b>571,553</b>	<b>581,320</b>	<b>533,962</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,218,898</b>	<b>3,334,220</b>	<b>3,152,965</b>	<b>2,935,715</b>	<b>2,810,164</b>	<b>2,608,970</b>	<b>2,590,586</b>	<b>2,538,632</b>

Detailed [statistical supplements](#) to the annual report are available online.

### Circuit and Probate Court Case Filings, including Court of Claims



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Civil	44,988	46,089	46,216	47,300	45,760	44,457	44,123	41,880
Criminal	65,532	67,123	65,416	61,851	58,325	55,435	52,841	52,578
Appeals, Admin. Review, Writs	4,988	5,065	5,198	5,039	5,002	4,302	4,668	4,224
Court of Claims	186	177	153	150	118	135	160	70
<b>Nonfamily Subtotal</b>	<b>115,694</b>	<b>118,454</b>	<b>116,983</b>	<b>114,340</b>	<b>109,205</b>	<b>104,329</b>	<b>101,792</b>	<b>98,752</b>
Domestic Relations	88,802	88,022	84,754	85,854	87,300	82,028	83,186	85,642
Personal Protection	41,779	39,163	38,266	40,222	39,568	37,725	37,849	34,895
Juvenile Code	82,243	81,456	75,812	61,239	56,875	50,285	51,346	43,266
Adoption	4,874	5,066	5,057	4,808	4,538	4,362	4,249	4,086
Misc. Family	3,788	3,661	3,765	3,772	3,888	3,566	3,594	3,684
<b>Family Subtotal</b>	<b>221,486</b>	<b>217,368</b>	<b>207,654</b>	<b>195,895</b>	<b>192,169</b>	<b>177,966</b>	<b>180,224</b>	<b>171,573</b>
Estates & Trusts	24,391	23,892	23,950	23,997	23,215	23,605	23,807	24,495
Guardianships, Conservatorships, & Protective Proceedings	22,143	21,528	21,593	21,374	21,320	20,791	21,147	21,308
Mental Health & Judicial Admission	14,556	15,265	14,993	15,852	16,036	16,453	17,413	17,183
Civil & Miscellaneous	1,051	946	923	905	897	972	1,220	1,128
<b>Probate Subtotal</b>	<b>62,141</b>	<b>61,631</b>	<b>61,459</b>	<b>62,128</b>	<b>61,468</b>	<b>61,821</b>	<b>63,587</b>	<b>64,114</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>399,321</b>	<b>397,453</b>	<b>386,096</b>	<b>372,363</b>	<b>362,842</b>	<b>344,116</b>	<b>345,603</b>	<b>334,439</b>

Detailed [statistical supplements](#) to the annual report are available online.



Learn about Michigan's judicial branch of government by touring the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Hall of Justice. The 3,800 square foot education center is designed for everyone from elementary students to adults. The gallery is filled with activities and exhibits, including a mock courtroom, computer programs, quizzes and challenges, and traditional text panels. Schedule a docent-led group tour by calling (517) 373-7171 or click [here](#). Open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., except court holidays.



Learning Center supervising Justice Michael F. Cavanagh with Front Row: Learning Center Coordinator Rachael Drenovsky, volunteer docents Sara Kanya, Veronica Drenovsky, and Patricia Babcock. Back Row: Program Assistant Amy Feinauer, and docents Patricia Czarnecki, Matthew Wyman, Carolyn Rose, Jane Cavanagh, Sandy Christian, Helen Riendeau, Candy Chatfield and Mary Pat Jaracz.



Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. met with students following oral argument at Big Rapids High School as part of the Court Community Connections program, a public education program aimed principally at high school students. The goal is to help students understand the appellate courts and Michigan's judicial system. *Photo by MSC Public Information Office.*

